

# Exhibit 15

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Docket No. 01-12257-PBS

CITIZENS FOR CONSUMER JUSTICE, ET AL.

Plaintiffs

v.

ABBOTT LABORATORIES, et al

Defendants

COPY

TRANSCRIPT OF MOTION HEARING  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE MARIANNE B. BOWLER  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
HELD ON FEBRUARY 2, 2006

APPEARANCES:

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Court Reporter:

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Court called into session)

THE CLERK: The Honorable Marianne D. Bowler  
presiding. Today is February 2, 2006. The case of Citizens  
for Consume, et al v. Abbott Labs, et al, Civil Action  
No. 01-12257 will now be heard. Will counsel please identify  
themselves for the record.

MR. NALVEN: Your Honor, I'm David Nalven from Hagens  
Berman in Boston representing the plaintiffs.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. CHRISTOFFERSON: Good morning, Your Honor, Eric  
Christofferson from Ropes and Gray representing Schering-Plough  
Warrick Pharmaceuticals Corporation.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. MANGI: Good morning, Your Honor, Adel Mangi from  
Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler for Johnson & Johnson.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. THEODOROU: Good morning, Your Honor, Nicholas  
Theodorou representing Astrazeneca Pharmaceuticals.

MR. PALERMO: Good morning, Your Honor, Chris Palermo  
from Kelley Drye & Warren representing Dey, Inc.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MS. GEISLER: Good morning. Carol Geisler from Jones  
Day representing Abbott Laboratories.

THE COURT: All right. Counsel have received the

1 notice, and I've just received from Mr. Nalven the order in  
2 which he would like to proceed here and--

3 MR. NALVEN: Yes, Your Honor, I shared that by  
4 telephone with all counsel previously. I received no  
5 objection. No joinder but no objection and so I provided it to  
6 the Court this morning.

7 THE COURT: Is there any objection?

8 MR. THEODOROU: Well, I don't really know which the  
9 order is, but I assume that we're--

10 THE COURT: Can you show Mr. Theodorou?

11 MR. THEODOROU: Hopefully I'm first.

12 MR. MANGI: I have a copy here.

13 THE COURT: I could say something, Mr. Theodorou, but  
14 I won't.

15 MR. NALVEN: Your Honor, as I explained to Mr. Duffy,  
16 the two matters at the bottom of the list I believe are off the  
17 calendar because they've been resolved and one of those is  
18 Mr. Theodorou's.

19 MR. THEODOROU: Yes, Your Honor--

20 THE COURT: Which--

21 MR. THEODOROU: --1894, the motion to compel  
22 production of documents from the Union of Operating Engineers.  
23 Judge Saris had argument on that on Friday. We have submitted  
24 orders. Plaintiffs have submitted their own proposed order and  
25 it's before Judge Saris.

1 THE COURT: And would you like to be excused,  
2 Mr. Theodorou?

3 MR. THEODOROU: If I may?

4 THE COURT: You may.

5 MR. THEODOROU: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: You're welcome.

7 MR. NALVEN: Your Honor, in addition, plaintiffs and  
8 defendants yesterday evening resolved motion 1794. That's the  
9 motion to compel production of IMS data and reports by the  
10 Track 1 defendants. I reached an agreement with  
11 Mr. Christofferson last night.

12 THE COURT: All right, so the motion--

13 MR. CHRISTOFFERSON: That's right, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: --should be withdrawn by agreement of  
15 counsel?

16 MR. NALVEN: Yes, ma'am.

17 MR. CHRISTOFFERSON: Yes, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Anything but ma'am. And would you like  
19 to be excused, Mr. Christofferson?

20 MR. CHRISTOFFERSON: Respectfully, no, Your Honor, we  
21 have another motion on.

22 THE COURT: You have other matters, all right. All  
23 right, then we will proceed in the order listed by Mr. Nalven,  
24 starting with docket entry no. 1682.

25 MR. HESS-MAHAN: Good morning, Your Honor, my name is

1 Theodore Hess-Mahan from the law firm of Shapiro Haber & Urmy,  
2 and I represent Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield, which is the  
3 movant on the motion for protective order, 1682.

4 THE COURT: I'll hear you.

5 MR. HESS-MAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor. This  
6 is a very simple, straightforward motion, Your Honor. Just to  
7 give you some background, this is not the first time that my  
8 client's been subpoenaed by the defendants in this case. They  
9 were served in April of 2004 with a 26 document request and  
10 request for deposition topics which over the course of several  
11 months were negotiated and narrowed somewhat but resulted in  
12 Empire producing close to 30,000 pages of documents and two  
13 deposition witnesses for full day depositions at which they  
14 testified in large part on the very areas which defendants are  
15 now pressing to have additional depositions; that is on  
16 physician administered drugs. And the situation we find  
17 ourselves in now since the class certification order is that we  
18 are no longer really a member of the class. As a non-party  
19 here, it's a different burden. It's whether it's unduly  
20 burdensome. I submit respectfully, Your Honor, that enough is  
21 enough. We've produced 30,000 pages of documents. We produced  
22 two witnesses for two days of depositions. They've testified  
23 at length as the reply memo and the attached deposition  
24 transcripts, Exhibits D and E, show. At this point there  
25 really isn't much more that we can provide. We've responded to



1 the document request, given them additional documents in  
2 response to a subsequent subpoena. But at this point in the  
3 game, there really isn't a reason why they need to take a  
4 deposition witness in advance. It would be large and  
5 duplicative discovery. There's nothing new that they're going  
6 to discover here. They've done the discovery on Empire's use  
7 or non-use of AWP and how they handled physician administered  
8 drugs. At this point, Your Honor, we'd be just asking to be  
9 relieved of the burden of having to come back with additional  
10 witnesses who are simply going to give the same testimony.

11 THE COURT: I'll hear you.

12 MR. NALVEN: Thank you, Your Honor. Respectfully,  
13 there really can be no dispute first that this discovery is  
14 still relevant. The discovery here clearly goes to the heart  
15 of the case. It's third party payers, like Empire, that the  
16 plaintiffs claim were duped by the alleged AWP scheme and the  
17 practices and knowledge of one of the biggest insurers in this  
18 country are surely relevant to the claims and defenses in this  
19 litigation. The fact that Empire is based in New York and not  
20 Massachusetts is of no moment. Empire says that the discovery  
21 is irrelevant because the classes are limited to Massachusetts,  
22 but Judge Saris' class certification order, which was just  
23 issued on Monday, defines the classes to include third party  
24 payers who made purchases of drugs in Massachusetts. And  
25 Empire has admitted in its papers that at least it has made on

1 at least a few occasions payments to prescribers in  
2 Massachusetts. So they very likely are, in fact, a class  
3 member. But even if Empire's somehow not a class member--

4 THE COURT: I mean a few occasions, what does that  
5 mean in terms of raw numbers?

6 MR. NALVEN: Your Honor, in their reply paper they  
7 mention that they have some members who lived or received  
8 treatment in Massachusetts. We haven't, there's no, you know,  
9 significant record on what their contacts are, but we would  
10 submit that it's very likely that they have paid prescribers in  
11 Massachusetts. For example, a New York resident who needs to  
12 go to Mass General to receive treatment is probably something  
13 that happens quite often. But even if somehow they're not a  
14 member of this particular class, it's still very relevant. The  
15 plaintiffs expert, Dr. Hartman, relies on data that he received  
16 from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City, a Missouri third  
17 party payer, for some of his analysis regarding the so-called  
18 Massachusetts classes. I highly doubt that the plaintiffs in  
19 this case would say that the actions and knowledge of a third  
20 party payer in New York are irrelevant to the so-called  
21 nationwide AWP scheme. And Your Honor has already granted  
22 discovery similar to that that's being requested.

23 With respect to the burden here, Your Honor, I think  
24 that it's also not very burdensome at all. With respect to  
25 documents that were requested in the subpoena, Empire has

1 already produced those documents, so all we're talking about  
2 is a single 30(b)(6) deposition.

3 THE COURT: It can be done in one day?

4 MR. NALVEN: I believe so. They have already  
5 identified two people to speak to the narrow focused topics  
6 that we've negotiated. It's not a very large, you know, it's  
7 not a very expansive set of topics that we've asked for and,  
8 you know, it seems to us that it could be done very quickly  
9 depending on the schedules of course of the witnesses. We are  
10 willing to travel to them. They don't have to travel anywhere,  
11 and the discovery, I just want to add, Your Honor, the  
12 discovery that Mr. Hess-Mahan referred to regarding what was  
13 done earlier was simply not on the specific topics that we've  
14 identified here. They're very narrow, focused topics and the  
15 witnesses before were not knowledgeable about these particular  
16 specific narrowed topics. And so we just don't see that Empire  
17 has identified that there's a significant burden here and, you  
18 know, we just want to ask them some narrow focused questions  
19 about documents they've already produced. It doesn't seem to  
20 us that it's going to be a long or a taxing deposition.

21 MR. HESS-MAHAN: May I just briefly be heard? As to  
22 the number of subscribers that we have that are treated in  
23 Massachusetts these are purely incidental. These are folks who  
24 lived in New York, moved to Massachusetts. There maybe some  
25 who in fact got treatment in Massachusetts but because of the

1 geographic territory we're talking about, which is lower state  
2 New York, we're not talking about a whole lot of people. It's  
3 going to be a very, very few. And there certainly wasn't any  
4 sort of, you know, there wasn't no intention to cover people  
5 who are now within the class of patients who are covered.

6 With respect to testimony that was already given, I  
7 just direct the Court's attention to page three of the reply  
8 memo and the citations there to the record. There has already  
9 been, and again the subpoena here is specifically on oncology  
10 drugs. That's exactly what the two witnesses who have already  
11 testified in full day depositions have testified regarding.  
12 They gave the knowledge that was available to the company  
13 Empire at the time, and all we'd really be doing is rehashing  
14 what's already been discussed and basically, you know,  
15 authenticating documents, which again, the burden compared to -  
16 and we're perfectly willing to authenticate those documents.  
17 There's no dispute from us.

18 THE COURT: Well, it doesn't seem to me that's it's  
19 overly burdensome. I'll limit it to one day. The two people  
20 have been identified. They're willing to travel to you. I  
21 don't think that's unreasonable.

22 MR. NALVEN: Thank you, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: All right. So the motion to quash is  
24 denied but the deposition is limited to one day.

25 MR. HESS-MAHAN: Thank you.

1 THE COURT: All right, moving on to docket entry  
2 number 1770.

3 MR. MANGI: Thank you, Your Honor, Adel Mangi from  
4 Patterson and Belknap on behalf of defendants. The subpoena at  
5 issue here, Your Honor, was issued on April 9, 2004. United,  
6 the recipient of the subpoena, is a particularly critical part  
7 of defendants industry sample because of their status as a  
8 major national insurer. That subpoena was issued almost two  
9 years ago now, but to date United has made only a limited  
10 production of documents. It's produced some documents from a  
11 prior litigation production and it's produced some contracts.  
12 United has refused to produce documents responsive to  
13 defendants narrowed production demands and United has refused  
14 to produce any witnesses for deposition. The only arguments  
15 that United has put forward to excuse their non-compliance with  
16 the subpoena are arguments that Your Honor has previously ruled  
17 on, not in reference to one or two health plans but in relation  
18 to 10 health plans now.

19 Most recently in November of 2005 Your Honor heard a  
20 motion to compel against six Blue Cross Blue Shield plans and  
21 the arguments there were identical to the issues raised here.  
22 The documents sought were identical to the documents sought  
23 here and the deposition focus are slightly narrower for United.  
24 Previously in January of '05 Your Honor ordered discovery to  
25 proceed against Health Net which was substantially broader then

1 the discovery sought here because that also encompassed self  
2 administered drugs whereas the focus is now purely on physician  
3 administered drugs. And of course there were previous motions,  
4 in November of '04 against Aetna, Cigna, Humana and Judge Saris  
5 also ordered discovery to proceed against health plans in April  
6 of 2004.

7 In sum, Your Honor, what we have here is a situation  
8 where for almost two years United has engaged in every possible  
9 effort to delay and stall this discovery and is now seeking to  
10 be rewarded for that by being excused from production.  
11 Defendants ask that United be held in the same standard as all  
12 the other health plans that have been subpoenaed in this  
13 litigation, ordered to make a good faith production to the same  
14 narrow demands we've addressed to other health plans. As to  
15 the substance of the request, we've previously argued those  
16 before Your Honor so I won't take the Court's time with them  
17 again, but I'm available to respond to any specific points my  
18 learned friend Mr. Prame may raise for United.

19 THE COURT: All right. I'll hear you.

20 MR. PRAME: Thank you, Your Honor, Michael Prame from  
21 Groom Law Group in Washington on behalf of United Health Care.  
22 United submits there are four reasons why the Court should deny  
23 the motion to compel. I believe my colleague underestimates or  
24 understates United's efforts to comply with the subpoena. They  
25 have not been recalcitrant. In 2004 United spent over 250

1 staff hours identifying, collecting and producing over 25,000  
2 pages of material pursuant to the request that the defendants  
3 were making at that time. The second reason why the motion  
4 should be denied, the additional discovery that the defendants  
5 are now seeking United submits would be unduly burdensome in  
6 that it would take thousands of hours over a six month period  
7 to respond to those requests to the extent, at least in  
8 particular one item it may not even be possible to do that.  
9 The discovery sought also as been discussed earlier has not be  
10 tailored to the classes that have been certified by the Court.  
11 Third, United submits the defendants have already obtained the  
12 sample that the Court authorized them to get. They have taken  
13 the depositions and obtained discovery from over 50% of the  
14 insured lives in the United States and health plans and  
15 insurers covering more than 50% of the classes that were  
16 certified by the Court. And fourth, the motion to compel is  
17 not timely.

18 To focus a little bit upon what happened in 2004,  
19 United did receive the subpoena in April of 2004. They filed  
20 their objections and immediately turned around and started  
21 discussing with counsel what it was that defendants were  
22 seeking from them. That was a three-month process, Your Honor.  
23 In August of 2004 there was an agreement reached as to what we  
24 produce for documents. United turned around those documents,  
25 spent 250 hours over the next two months gathering,

14  
1 identifying, collecting those documents from sites nationwide.  
2 Many of these documents were archived off site. They pulled  
3 those back. Others were in computer archives, pulled those  
4 back. United completed its document production in November of  
5 2004. As I said, all tolled it was 250 staff hours, 25,000  
6 pages of material and outside legal fees in connection with  
7 negotiating the scope of the subpoena, reviewing documents for  
8 production hit the six figure mark. United completes its  
9 production in November of 2004. It's not until nearly June of  
10 2005 defendants come back and say we'd really like more, May  
11 27<sup>th</sup>. We negotiated with them again for another month and a  
12 half. And after that month and a half United simply said it's  
13 too burdensome. Now let me speak to that burden. One of the  
14 things that they request is for United to produce its fee  
15 schedules for the period 1997 to 2003. There are  
16 70,000 fee schedules for that period. Those fee schedules in  
17 United's computer--

18 THE COURT: Isn't this available though in electronic  
19 format?

20 MR. PRAME: Comprised of billions of rows of computer  
21 code. United can't even say that they have the system band  
22 with to download that type of information. To the extent that  
23 they do, they estimate it's going to take 20 employees full  
24 time for four months to download that, to get that information.  
25 We had offered during the negotiation to do a representative



1 sample of fee schedules and it was rejected.

2 THE COURT: Why isn't that a reasonable place to  
3 start?

4 MR. MANGI: Your Honor, on the specific issue of fee  
5 schedules defendants have had some experience dealing with fee  
6 schedule productions from health plans to date. Your Honor has  
7 ordered that production many times and we've received it from a  
8 number of health plans. In no case to date has the production  
9 of fee schedules proved a burden because as Your Honor  
10 indicated it's a simple electronic download. They're not even  
11 field issues as there can sometimes be with claims data. Now  
12 insofar as there are unique issues pertaining to United's fee  
13 schedule production we have asked for a specific identification  
14 of what the problems are so that we can work with United to  
15 find a reasonable solution. We have received no technical  
16 specifications as to where this problem is coming up that makes  
17 United unique. We would submit that if United's obligation to  
18 produce documents in response to the subpoena is made clear we  
19 are then willing to work with United. If it's a simple  
20 technical roadblock that we can resolve we're willing to do  
21 that. If it cannot and we need to sample fee schedules then  
22 we'll do that.

23 THE COURT: Well, I think you have to at least share  
24 with your brother the source of the technical problem. If it's  
25 been feasible for everyone else, I don't know why it's such a

1 problem.

2 MR. PRAME: Yeah, I mean, we outlined in our papers,  
3 Your Honor. We've discussed with them the issue. Even--

4 THE COURT: Well, your brother's just telling me that  
5 he doesn't know.

6 MR. PRAME: With all do respect, Your Honor, we have  
7 been dealing with a separate attorney at that law firm until  
8 August of this year. We had these discussions with her.  
9 Mr. Mangi, we've had more recent discussions with in September.  
10 We started over from square one with Mr. Mangi in September.  
11 We had told them--

12 THE COURT: Well, apparently he is not satisfied with  
13 your explanation in terms of the technical problems that make  
14 your company unique from all the others.

15 MR. PRAME: And we would be happy to continue that  
16 discussion. We've outlined in our paper that it's billions of  
17 lines of computer code. Even in the letter that we sent  
18 proposing the sample, we said we'll give you 10 contracts from  
19 Massachusetts for each year, 10 fee schedules and for those fee  
20 schedules you identify the drugs that you want and we'll go  
21 back and get them.

22 THE COURT: And how many fee schedules are there on  
23 average per year? I mean, I'd like to know what the - if you  
24 say 10 what portion of the sample that is?

25 MR. PRAME: Yeah, a couple of concepts, Your Honor.

1 The fee schedule just doesn't focus on drugs. The fee  
2 schedule with providers is every type of fee for service that  
3 they provide.

4 THE COURT: Sure, I realize that.

5 MR. PRAME: The drug, as I understand it, the drug  
6 components of those fee schedules get updated twice a year.

7 THE COURT: But you didn't answer my question. If  
8 you say we're willing to provide 10, well if 10 of 50, that's  
9 significant, but if it's 10 of 200 it's perhaps not as  
10 significant. So I'm trying to get a sense of what it is--

11 MR. PRAME: Yeah.

12 THE COURT: --you're willing to offer.

13 MR. PRAME: Yeah. We had, as I said there are  
14 70,000--

15 THE COURT: Do you know the answer to my question?

16 MR. PRAME: There are 70,000 fee schedules, Your  
17 Honor from the--

18 THE COURT: For the time periods?

19 MR. PRAME: --'97 to 2003. We had--

20 THE COURT: 70,000 and you telling me you would  
21 provide 10?

22 MR. PRAME: No, we would provide 70, we've done 10  
23 for each year for the Boston area, and what that was being  
24 projected was 80 hours worth of work over two to three week  
25 period to do that.

1 THE COURT: Well, I think 70 out of 70,000 is  
2 probably not statistically significant. Mr. Mangi?

3 MR. MANGI: Thank you, Your Honor. If I may address  
4 the specific issue of fee schedules and then I'll address the  
5 other issues if Your Honor pleases. It sounds to me, first of  
6 all in relation to communications United has had with Collins  
7 at Patterson Belknap, I've reviewed all those files and all the  
8 logs of phone conversations and was involved in some. It  
9 appears to me that the source of United's problem insofar has  
10 be able to--

11 THE COURT: You can be seated while your brother  
12 argues.

13 MR. PRAME: Thank you.

14 MR. MANGI: --insofar as I've been able to ascertain  
15 to date pertains to fees for physician services that have no  
16 relation to drug administration. We're not interested in those  
17 fees. We've made that clear to United as to other plans.  
18 We're interested in the fee schedules pertaining to drugs and  
19 in the fee schedules pertaining to services incident to drug  
20 administration. There are a number of relatively simple ways  
21 to pull the services incident to drug administration. In some  
22 claim systems they can be pulled by reference to the same  
23 overarching claims number that pertain to drugs. In others we  
24 have and can provide again a list of administration specific  
25 codes. To put this in context, Your Honor, the fee schedule

1 production to date no third party health plan has even asked  
2 for any cost from fee schedule production to be reimbursed  
3 because they've proved nominal. And again, I would submit that  
4 once the obligation to United to produce is made clear any  
5 issues can be resolved expeditiously.

6           If I may respond briefly to a couple of other points  
7 that my learned friend made. In relation to productions to  
8 date and the issue of burden, the mere volume of pages that  
9 have been produced says nothing as to the nature of the  
10 documents that have been produced. To put that issue in  
11 context, United has not produced any documents reflecting its  
12 knowledge of critical issues such as margin, the existence of  
13 margin, expectation of margin, which is at the core of  
14 plaintiffs' case. In relation to the burden of producing those  
15 additional documents we suspect it's nominal. In fact in a  
16 letter from July United told us that they had already  
17 identified the documents that they needed to produce as to  
18 margin. They just haven't produced them.

19           As to the issue of our not having focused purely on  
20 United's Massachusetts operations, well again, that's a simple  
21 point. There is no claim in this case that there was a  
22 Massachusetts specific fraud. The claim is of a nationwide  
23 fraud. It so happens that the class that's been certified in  
24 this context is Massachusetts specific, but proving or  
25 disproving it and plaintiffs' theories is a consequence of the

1 knowledge of the industry as a whole. So United's knowledge  
2 on these issues is absolutely critical.

3 And finally in terms of the fact that we subpoenaed  
4 other plans in addition to United is the identical argument  
5 made by the group of Blues plans saying, well, others have  
6 produced so we shouldn't have to. Well, Your Honor, this is a  
7 bit of chicken and egg. You'll recall the Blues plan said,  
8 well, United has been subpoenaed so we shouldn't have to  
9 produce and here we see United making the same argument.  
10 They're all critical parts of the same industry sample. Some  
11 are major players. Some are smaller players. United's  
12 subpoena's been outstanding for some two years now and we  
13 submit they should be ordered to produce.

14 MR. PRAME: May I be heard, Your Honor?

15 THE COURT: You may.

16 MR. PRAME: A couple of additional points, and I want  
17 to make sure that it's clear, we were not posing to produce our  
18 entire fee schedule. What I was talking about was producing  
19 the schedules as they related to drugs and those numbers that I  
20 was referencing was specifically related to the drug issue. I  
21 think the inference that we have been withholding documents is  
22 misleading. We have produced every single document that they  
23 requested back and we negotiated back in 2004, every single  
24 one. They came back in June 2005 and said, notwithstanding  
25 that we want more. So we have produced everything that had

1 been agreed to, but our objection on burden is not limited to  
2 the fee schedules. We have the same issue for claims data.  
3 For claims data we've told them on multiple occasions, we've  
4 written them series of letters of how many hours it's going to  
5 take and how long it's going to take. The current request is  
6 estimated 450 hours over a three to six month period to produce  
7 data for Arizona and Massachusetts for 1997 to 2003.

8 THE COURT: Well, I'm going to grant the motion, and  
9 I suggest that you sit down and see if there is some way that  
10 by providing them some technical information they may be able  
11 to expedite the process for you. Agreeable?

12 MR. MANGI: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 MR. PRAME: With all do respect, Your Honor, I assume  
15 that the points that we have made in our briefs would be within  
16 the record and the reasons why you're denying the motion would  
17 include those arguments that we have made on other points.

18 THE COURT: So noted.

19 MR. PRAME: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: All right, moving on. Docket entry  
21 number 1907.

22 MR. NALVEN: Your Honor, before you you have six  
23 motions, the following six motions listed on the argument list  
24 that I provided to the Court this morning. All of these six  
25 motions deal with subpoenas that were sent to four--

1 THE COURT: Right.

2 MR. NALVEN: --Massachusetts's third party payers,  
3 Tufts, Neighborhood Health Plan, Fallon and Harvard Pilgrim  
4 Community Health Plan. Because all of these, because the  
5 protective order motions and the motions to quash address the  
6 same subpoenas I would recommend to the Court that the Court  
7 consider all of these motions together. I can address on  
8 behalf of plaintiffs the arguments for plaintiffs' protective  
9 order motion. I would recommend to the Court that the Court  
10 include in this global argument the arguments of third party  
11 payer counsel who are here today and are prepared to step up--

12 THE COURT: All right.

13 MR. NALVEN: --and perhaps it would be useful for you  
14 to have before you all counsel at one time.

15 THE COURT: I agree.

16 (Pause)

17 UNIDENTIFIED: Would the Court like counsel for the  
18 third party payers to identify themselves?

19 THE COURT: I certainly would.

20 MS. JOSEPHSON: Good morning, Your Honor, I'm Anne  
21 Josephson from Kotin, Crabtree & Strong. I represent Tufts  
22 Associated Health Plan.

23 THE COURT: Thank you.

24 MS. JOSEPHSON: Thank you.

25 MS. BANNING: Good morning, Your Honor, my name is



1 Susan Banning from Hemenway & Barnes. I represent  
2 Neighborhood Health Plan.

3 THE COURT: Thank you.

4 MR. SATURLEY: Good morning, Your Honor, William  
5 Saturley from Nelson, Kinder, Mosseau & Saturley. And in this  
6 matter I speak for Fallon Community Health Plan.

7 THE COURT: Thank you very much.

8 MR. SATURLEY: Thank you.

9 MR. NALVEN: Your Honor, now on behalf of plaintiffs  
10 I will address together, because the arguments are almost  
11 identical, motions 1907 and 1909. 1907 is directed to the  
12 subpoenas issued to Tufts and Neighborhood Health Plan, and  
13 1909 is directed to the subpoenas issued to Fallon and Harvard  
14 Pilgrim. The issue of discovery of non-parties, that is absent  
15 class members, is an issue that the Court has dealt with on  
16 several occasions before. What's critical to understand is  
17 that when the issue was first raised with Judge Saris, Judge  
18 Saris understood and expressly acknowledged that discovery of  
19 absent class members was generally frowned upon absent a  
20 showing of a specific need. The defendants argued to Judge  
21 Saris and have argued to you repeatedly that the reason that  
22 they needed discovery of absent class members is because they  
23 had constructed a representative sample of third party payers  
24 from around the country and that they needed the specific third  
25 party payers whom they had subpoenaed and they took the

1 depositions of over 40 third party payers - they're seeking as  
2 well - the two that you previously saw on the basis that they  
3 had constructed this representative sample. They argued and  
4 we've set forth in our papers on four or five occasions when  
5 they represented to Judge Saris and to you that the reason that  
6 they needed the specific discovery of an identified health plan  
7 provider was because it was a key part of that representative  
8 sample.

9           Defendants have already taken over 40 health plans  
10 covering over 50% of the covered lives in the United States.  
11 It really begs the question at this point now that they have  
12 obtained all of the health plans discovery that constituted  
13 their representative sample why are they back here now seeking  
14 further discovery of four Massachusetts health plans? Did the  
15 defendants have a representative sample in the first place as  
16 they have represented to the Court, and if they did, why is it  
17 that at this point they require more? The defendants respond  
18 to that argument which is set forth in our papers by saying in  
19 essence the world has changed since they constructed their  
20 representative sample. What they say to the Court is Judge  
21 Saris has certified two specific Massachusetts only classes and  
22 so that as a result now they need to drill down into  
23 Massachusetts third party payers. You did hear from Mr. Mangi  
24 just one moment ago that the proof with respect to the  
25 Massachusetts class will be demonstrated by the knowledge of

1 the industry as a whole which is the reason that they continue  
2 to pursue discovery of third party payers nationally. So that  
3 again begs the question why select four more Massachusetts  
4 third party payers? Let me note, Your Honor, that they have  
5 already taken two depositions, I'm sorry, three depositions of  
6 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts which were granted by  
7 Your Honor in November. And they have also already taken  
8 discovery and four depositions from Harvard Pilgrim Community  
9 Health Plan. These two Health Plans together compromise more  
10 than 50% of the covered lives in Massachusetts. Your Honor, I  
11 work here in Massachusetts, you work here in Massachusetts.  
12 They have discovery from Blue Cross Blue Shield of  
13 Massachusetts, Harvard Pilgrim. They are now seeking discovery  
14 from Tufts, Fallon, Neighborhood Health and more discovery from  
15 Harvard Pilgrim. Are you aware of any health plan providers  
16 other than those five in Massachusetts? This is not a  
17 representative sample even of Massachusetts, even if it were  
18 needed, this is every covered life in Massachusetts. This  
19 isn't a representative sample, Your Honor. This is a census  
20 that they are seeking. You know, the Nielson Company does  
21 their sample of all American television watchers with 400  
22 families. It seems to defy credulity that the defendants  
23 really need discovery of virtually every covered life in  
24 Massachusetts.

25 Three more very brief points, Your Honor. Number

one, the discovery of third party payers has been undertaken entirely through the course of this proceeding through the Track 1 defendants, and it was the Track 1 defendants who had represented to you that the defendants had constructed a representative sample. As Your Honor knows Track 1 discovery concluded at the end of August. So the subpoenas that were sent to my brothers' and sisters' clients were sent by Track 2 defendants. Track 2 defendants after all were permitted to take discovery until December 3<sup>rd</sup>. But it's clear from the subpoenas and from their attachments and from the content of their attachments that these subpoenas, that the Track 2 defendants are acting no more as agents for the Track 1 defendants in this discovery effort and it's utterly a subterfuge to permit the Track 1 defendants to extend their discovery campaign against absent class members. What is the proof of that? The attachment to the subpoena is virtually identical to the attachments to the subpoenas sent by the Track 1 defendants. What is the other proof of that? There are a list of drugs that the companies want information concerning on those subpoenas. Among those lists are 147 drugs that were manufactured by the Track 1 defendants. They, one of the manufacturers sending the subpoenas, had submitted, the subpoena that they had submitted had only five day drugs on it but 147 Track 1 drugs.

And again, Your Honor, two more very small points.

1 Number one, as Your Honor knows there is a CMO in place in  
2 this case which requires 21 days notice. The subpoenas that  
3 were sent to Fallon and to Harvard Community Health Plan were  
4 sent on I think something like 11 and nine days notice  
5 respectfully, respectively. Why is that? Well because they  
6 were sent too close to the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Track 2 cutoff in order  
7 to provide sufficient notice. On that ground alone they should  
8 be stricken. I want to add as well one small point. In one of  
9 Dey's responses it indicates that while my brothers' and  
10 sisters' clients before you today are not cooperating with the  
11 subpoena that Harvard Pilgrim Community Health Plan is  
12 complying with the subpoena and subsequent to Dey's submission  
13 of that representation Harvard Community did submit to the  
14 parties, and I provided it to the Court yesterday an extensive  
15 objection submitted by Harvard Pilgrim. So on those grounds,  
16 Your Honor, plaintiffs submit that these subpoenas should be  
17 quashed, that the protective order should be granted and that  
18 no further discovery is needed or should be allowed against the  
19 health plans in Massachusetts.

20 THE COURT: All right. Responding?

21 MR. PALERMO: Good morning, Your Honor, Chris Palermo  
22 on behalf of Dey. Your Honor, as counsel for plaintiffs has  
23 acknowledged, the issue of discovery against the absent class  
24 members has already been considered by the Court and the Court  
25 has already permitted on two occasions absent class member

1 discovery. The issue is relevance--

2 THE COURT: The issue is why were they so late?

3 MR. PALERMO: In terms of--

4 THE COURT: The 21 days?

5 MR. PALERMO: Well, Your Honor, I believe CMO 10  
6 permits, and I think it's CMO 10, permits notice to third party  
7 payers on seven days notice, Your Honor, and I believe that  
8 that's--

9 THE COURT: What's your position on that?

10 MR. NALVEN: Your Honor, that's flatly incorrect.  
11 We've attached the CMO to our papers and we've explained why  
12 that argument is incorrect.

13 THE COURT: Point it out to me then.

14 MR. PALERMO: Your Honor, I'll have to look in our  
15 papers. It was in our opposition to the plaintiffs' motion.

16 THE COURT: Well, do you have it in front of you?

17 MR. PALERMO: I'll have to get it, Your Honor. Just  
18 one moment.

19 (Pause)

20 MR. PALERMO: I apologize, Your Honor.

21 (Pause)

22 THE COURT: Do you have it, Mr. Nalven, where you  
23 could--

24 MR. PALERMO: Your Honor, it's Exhibits G and H to  
25 the proposition to the plaintiffs' motion, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Let's see if I can pull it up  
2 electronically.

3 (Pause)

4 MR. PALERMO: Your Honor, on and I'm sorry, Your  
5 Honor, at September 27, 2004 Exhibit F and, Your Honor, the  
6 Court had ruled that defendants could notice third party payer  
7 depositions on seven days notice provided that the defendants  
8 did not notice more than 10 depositions in any one week.

9 MR. NALVEN: Your Honor, Your Honor, I'm sorry,  
10 you're looking at me so I assume you would like me to respond.  
11 Your Honor, there was a hearing as counsel notes on September  
12 27, 2004. That hearing involved third party subpoenas that  
13 were noticed on more than 21 days notice. The issue before the  
14 Court was whether having noticed those subpoenas because of  
15 scheduling changes among the third parties whether those  
16 depositions could proceed on less than 21 days notice having  
17 been previously noticed properly.

18 THE COURT: The date of that again was September--

19 MR. NALVEN: September 27, 2004. But, Your Honor,  
20 respectfully, you did not modify nor do I believe you intended  
21 to modify Judge Saris' CMO 10 with your September 27<sup>th</sup> order.  
22 What you said simply was with respect to properly noticed  
23 subpoenas if there's a result of scheduling issues with the  
24 non-parties the deposition needed to proceed on less than 21  
25 days notice, having been properly noticed that it could proceed

1 on seven days notice. In fact, Your Honor, as I mentioned,  
2 this is the second time that Harvard Pilgrim Community Health  
3 has been subpoenaed in this proceeding, and I'll just note for  
4 you, Your Honor, that the first time the defendants noticed the  
5 deposition of Harvard Pilgrim they noticed it on exactly 21  
6 days notice. It's only with respect to these last two  
7 depositions, which bumped up against the December 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline  
8 that the 21 day notice violated.

9 THE COURT: Well that's what's most bothersome to me,  
10 you know, I mean--

11 MR. PALERMO: Well, Your Honor, on that front I would  
12 note that the plaintiffs noticed the IMS request one day before  
13 the close of discovery, Your Honor. That would not be  
14 sufficient notice under the 21 day rule.

15 THE COURT: Well tit for tat is not the approach  
16 here.

17 MR. PALERMO: And, and clearly given the delay till  
18 now, Your Honor, in February the issue of the timing of the  
19 notice, they've had ample notice and time now, Your Honor, to  
20 address it.

21 MR. NALVEN: I only note, Your Honor, with respect to  
22 the IMS request that was a document request not a deposition  
23 notice not subject to CMO 10. That matter also has been  
24 resolved.

25 THE COURT: All right. I'll take it under



1 advisement. I'll take a break and then I'll give you a  
2 ruling.

3 MR. PALERMO: Your Honor, would you like me to  
4 address the other issues that--

5 THE COURT: Sure.

6 MR. PALERMO: --plaintiffs' counsel raised?

7 THE COURT: Go through it all and then I'll take a  
8 break and come back and give you a ruling.

9 MR. PALERMO: Well, Your Honor, there's clearly a  
10 need for the discovery. It's relevant to the Massachusetts  
11 Class three that the Court had certified and is clearly, it  
12 goes to the heart of those allegations. Plaintiffs' counsel  
13 had referenced the discovery against Blue Cross Blue Shield.  
14 That is one, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Your  
15 Honor, that's one plan. Your Honor, we submit that one plan  
16 alone is insufficient in terms of demonstrating industry  
17 knowledge and the methodologies that are used by the plans.  
18 Dey needs and the Track 2 defendants need discovery on industry  
19 knowledge relating to the third party payers' understandings  
20 and expectations and how they went about reimbursing. In terms  
21 of the scope of the subpoena, there are issues relating to  
22 cross subsidization between the brand and generic drugs. With  
23 respect to the issue of Dey being a Track 2 defendant, Your  
24 Honor, Track 2 defendants are entitled to take discovery and to  
25 pursue discovery and Dey did so recognizing how the Court had

1 ruled in its class certification decision with respect to  
2 certifying the Massachusetts class. That's the focus of that  
3 discovery and it's clearly relevant to that discovery.

4 MR. NALVEN: Your Honor, I did not address the issues  
5 of burden to the Massachusetts third party payers because  
6 counsel for those third party payers are here today and I know  
7 that they would like--

8 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

9 MR. NALVEN: --to be heard with respect to burden.

10 THE COURT: I'll hear you.

11 MS. BANNING: I'm at the end, Your Honor, Susan  
12 Banning for Neighborhood Health Plan. With respect to  
13 Neighborhood Health Plan that is our argument really, burden,  
14 whether it is analyzed under an absent class member under Rule  
15 45. In our view Dey has not made any showing that they need  
16 discovery from this particular health plan or that the need  
17 outweighs the significant burden.

18 THE COURT: How many subscribers do you have?

19 MS. BANNING: We have approximately 125,000 members,  
20 Your Honor, and approximately 300 employees. What NHP does, it  
21 was founded to serve, bring managed care to underserved  
22 populations. Today approximately 80% of its members are on  
23 Medicaid and what NHP does is it contracts with Mass Health.  
24 It's a Mass Health managed care organization to provide that  
25 care. NHP does not have any in-house counsel. It has on staff

1 a grand total of two pharmacists, one of which has already  
2 spent significant time going through these requests and trying  
3 to analyze what would be needed. NHP certainly is not a major  
4 national insurer or anything like the things that other people  
5 have been talking about.

6 What we did try to do, Your Honor, and even that took  
7 a significant amount of time, and I heard a lot about timing  
8 and obviously when I got this subpoena I did not know of all  
9 these various orders, but just with respect to NHP, Your Honor,  
10 contrary to what Dey says, the subpoena to NHP, the original  
11 subpoena, was served on November 14<sup>th</sup>. The documents were due  
12 on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The deposition was scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
13 I sent three separate pieces of correspondence to Dey including  
14 objections, did not get a response, and that was when we filed  
15 the motion for a protective order. They never would even tell  
16 me that they were taken the deposition off for December 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
17 They did not tell me plaintiffs had filed a motion. I had to  
18 get that information by calling around to other people.

19 After all this happened, Your Honor, Dey sent what  
20 they called a reduced list of drugs and a reduced list of  
21 requests. And we did nonetheless try to respond to that  
22 despite all of these different motions that are outstanding.  
23 And in document number 2089, Your Honor, and the attachment 1  
24 to that, it's our motion to file a supplemental affidavit of  
25 Pamela Siren. And what we try to do in that in the event Your

1 Honor does order discovery is in paragraph 10 NHP explains  
2 what they could produce from the reduced list tabbing it to  
3 their different request, and in paragraph 10 of that affidavit  
4 it lists things like physician fee schedules, contracts with  
5 current and former PBM's et cetera. But what NHP also does is  
6 try to explain why with respect to their size and their  
7 resources in both this affidavit and the other affidavit of  
8 Ms. Siren, this would be an incredible burden and those  
9 arguments, Your Honor, range from everything that we cannot  
10 access our information by J codes. And the best way to see the  
11 dramatic difference is between this J code list of many drugs  
12 and the way NHP accesses its drugs is to look at Judge Saris'  
13 list of drugs and the recent order. That is how they foresee  
14 then can access drugs. They go onto explain why things like  
15 trying to retrieve every piece of correspondence with  
16 providers, every contract out there which there are over 5,000  
17 on site, the rest stored, is for this size organization an  
18 incredible burden and so, again, even with the reduced list we  
19 did try to say what we could produce with the original list.  
20 We filed a variety of objections.

21 THE COURT: Now you're non-profit?

22 MS. BANNING: Yes, Your Honor, we are.

23 THE COURT: All right..

24 MR. PALERMO: Your Honor, I'm sorry, would you like  
25 me to address the burden issues with respect to each--

1 THE COURT: Well one each time if it's easier for  
2 you to keep track of the argument. Go ahead.

3 MR. PALERMO: Thank you, Your Honor. Your Honor,  
4 with respect to the issue of the communications with Dey upon  
5 receipt of the subpoena that's addressed in our papers, Your  
6 Honor, their communications were misaddressed to a lawyer. It  
7 should have been addressed to one lawyer, Kelley Drye, and they  
8 got the person's name wrong, so we were unaware of that  
9 communication till a subsequent communication with my associate  
10 Ms. Trewick and as soon as we became aware of that we  
11 communicated with them. We've expressed our willingness to try  
12 and work with them to narrow the scope. We continue to be  
13 willing to try and address issues relating to burden but they  
14 are--

15 THE COURT: What's the significance of such a small  
16 plan?

17 MR. PALERMO: Well, Your Honor, we're trying, the  
18 allegations in the complaint are so broad that we want to get a  
19 cross section of plans. Blue Cross Blue Shield obviously is a  
20 very large plan, Your Honor. Tufts and Harvard Pilgrim are  
21 smaller plans and Neighborhood and Fallon are smaller scope  
22 plans so what we've tried to do is get a range of plans, Your  
23 Honor, and we think that the four subpoenas are not excessive  
24 and that it's important for us to be able to have discovery  
25 relating to, again, a cross section of those plans.

1 THE COURT: Ms. Josephson?

2 MS. JOSEPHSON: Thank you. Your Honor, Tufts  
3 associated Health Plan is the operational arm of a number of  
4 related Massachusetts related third party payers that I'll just  
5 refer to as Tufts Health Plan. It's the third largest--

6 THE COURT: Covering how many people?

7 MS. JOSEPHSON: It covers just over 600,000 members,  
8 and this makes Tufts Health Plan comparable in size as counsel  
9 for Dey has just said to Harvard Pilgrim whose enrollment is  
10 somewhere between 700 and 800,000 members. In fact, Dey Inc.  
11 concedes in its opposition papers to the plaintiffs' motion for  
12 protective order that it actually chose to direct the subpoena  
13 to Tufts Health Plan precisely because it was comparable in  
14 size to Harvard Pilgrim. But the defendants have already  
15 obtained discovery from Harvard Pilgrim from this comparable  
16 health plan. So in seeking discovery from Tufts Health Plan  
17 Dey Inc. is going beyond a representative sample here and it's  
18 seeking discovery of the only two health plans in this  
19 particular size bracket, Harvard Pilgrim and Tufts.

20 There's no dispute and Dey seems to concede that it  
21 is entitled to discovery from absent class members such as  
22 Tufts Health Plan really only on a showing of need and it has  
23 to meet several criteria including two that I wanted to talk  
24 about. First, upon a showing that the discovery is not unduly  
25 burdensome. And second, that the information is not available

1 from the representative parties. Now, the central  
2 justification for issuing these subpoenas to all of these  
3 Massachusetts health plans in the first place, and you'll see  
4 it in the memos in opposition, was that at the time the  
5 subpoenas were issued there were actually no Massachusetts  
6 health plans that were parties to this case, and that was true  
7 at that time. But everything has changed because this past  
8 Monday on January 30<sup>th</sup> when Judge Saris issued the consolidated  
9 order she certified Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts as  
10 a representative party of Massachusetts third party payers.  
11 So that problem that the defendants had that justified these  
12 subpoenas is solved. There is no more need to take this broad  
13 sample now that you have a clearly certified representative of  
14 this class of third party payers that's an actual party to the  
15 case. The question at this point is why and how badly do the  
16 defendants need discovery from Tufts Health Plan? What could  
17 Tufts Health Plan actually offer here that's not cumulative or  
18 duplicative where there is now a representative Massachusetts  
19 health plan who's a plaintiff in this case and where the  
20 defendants already have discovery from a health plan that it  
21 concedes is actually comparable in size to Tufts Health Plan.  
22 Between discovery from Blue Cross Blue Shield and Harvard, the  
23 defendants already have information that covers more than 50%,  
24 I have no idea of the percentage, but close to 3,000,000  
25 covered lives in Massachusetts, there is no need to seek

1 discovery from Tufts Health Plan.

2           There also can be no material dispute, there's been  
3 no dispute to the information we've provided by affidavit and  
4 supplemental affidavit about the enormous time, expense, cost,  
5 opportunity cost in terms of diverting attention from vital and  
6 time sensitive business that Tufts Health Plan staff needs to  
7 attend to that would be required in responding to this  
8 subpoena. To comply just with Dey's narrowed request, the 12  
9 document categories that it sent as a compromise proposal, to  
10 comply just with that we would estimate would require 1,500  
11 hours of time, nine months of a full-time equivalence time just  
12 to retrieve and organize the information for production, and  
13 the cost of this labor alone comes to just short of \$80,000.  
14 After retrieval of this information, it would then have to be  
15 reviewed for responsiveness, confidentiality designations and  
16 assertions of privilege.

17           And there's one other thing that I can't  
18 overemphasize, the addition of Blue Cross Blue Shield as a  
19 party to this case adds another even more critical and to Tufts  
20 Health Plan disturbing cost to production in this case. Blue  
21 Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts is Tufts Health Plan's  
22 largest competitor in a brutally competitive and small market.  
23 Dey has not asked only for fee schedules pertaining to drug  
24 reimbursement but for provider contracts that show exactly what  
25 Tufts Health Plan pays its doctors, the very same doctors that



1 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts negotiates with when  
2 all of these health insurers who are competitors set  
3 reimbursement rates, again, not just for drug prices but for  
4 the services that are rendered. There's absolutely no reason  
5 why simply because Tufts meets certain criteria of class  
6 membership in this case that it must deliver up to its largest  
7 competitor its provider contracts. That is the most sensitive,  
8 competitively sensitive proprietary information that Tufts has.  
9 There is no prior order or ruling in this case that would  
10 require such a result. Every time this Court or Judge Saris  
11 has ordered production from absent class members or potential  
12 absent class members, it satisfied itself that there is an  
13 actual need for this information and that there are no undo  
14 confidentiality concerns.

15           The Court has also frequently conditioned discovery  
16 of absent class members upon the defendants' payments of cost  
17 and expenses. On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, for example, this Court ordered  
18 the defendants to pay absent class members for the reasonable  
19 cost of transportation and related expenses, attorney's fees,  
20 and lost income involved in appearing for deposition. On  
21 January 27<sup>th</sup> this Court ordered Health Net to provide redacted  
22 claims data to the defendants as part of its core industry  
23 sample with the defendants to pay the cost of retrieval. We  
24 have offered actually to provide, before Blue Cross Blue Shield  
25 became a party to this case, we have offered to provide our fee

1 schedules. We have offered to provide claims data and even  
2 sample provider contracts with proprietary information  
3 redacted. If the defendants would pay for that effort and if  
4 the confidentiality order that is currently existing in this  
5 case were tightened up in one respect and the respect that we  
6 ask for is this, that the expert certification on the highly  
7 confidential protective order would be tightened up to make  
8 sure that the expert also certifies essentially the same thing  
9 that in-house counsel certifies, that the expert that's  
10 reviewing this information has no business conflict of interest  
11 and that the expert is not involved in actually advising either  
12 health care providers or others negotiating with health care  
13 providers on reimbursement rates. Those suggestions were  
14 rejected by Dey.

15 We would also have no objection if discovery from  
16 Tufts is actually ordered at all to describe in general terms  
17 in a deposition how AWP actually factors into contract  
18 negotiations generally as long as we're not required to  
19 disclose to Blue Cross Blue Shield under any circumstances  
20 directly or indirectly the precise terms of the deal that we  
21 strike with our physician and physician groups. We would  
22 actually have to consider seriously opting out of this class if  
23 that would protect us and prevent us from having to disclose  
24 that and that's a result to be avoided because that would allow  
25 the defendants actually to be using discovery as a weapon--

1 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

2 MS. JOSEPHSON: --and to reduce potential claimants.  
3 So Dey has not agreed to this limited production or to payment  
4 of anything beyond claims data retrieval costs or to enhanced  
5 confidentiality protection and essentially stands by its  
6 subpoena even though it's overreaching in several respects. It  
7 stands by a list of subject drugs that is far different and far  
8 broader than was attached to the consolidated order that Judge  
9 Saris issued on Monday. I'm willing to settle for fees  
10 schedules, claims data and sample contracts. Dey wants all of  
11 Tufts documents not only that reflect reimbursement for drugs  
12 but all documents reflecting anyone's thinking about the price  
13 of drugs and any communications with physicians about the price  
14 of drugs or the cost of drugs over the entire 14 year period  
15 that they're concerned about. This creates an unworkable  
16 burden for Tufts. We would have to look through every document  
17 we have to figure out if there is something that would  
18 potentially be responsive to that request.

19 According to Judge Saris the open question in this  
20 case is a simple one, is AWP relevant to health plans in  
21 connection with setting reimbursement rates with physicians for  
22 physician administered drugs? Dey Inc., the defendants, do not  
23 need 14 years of provider contracts, 14 years of communications  
24 with physicians, 14 years of committee meetings from defendants  
25 that are or from absent class members that they already have

1 information from comparable ones. They just don't need this  
2 information to answer that simple question. If there is to be  
3 any discovery of Tufts Health Plan at all, we have a number of  
4 conditions and I'd be happy to submit them in the form of a  
5 proposed order but we would really--

6 THE COURT: Well that's the next step. So let's--

7 MS. JOSEPSON: Okay. We'd ask this Court to  
8 seriously consider the position that we urging here that the  
9 defendants have what they need now with the representative  
10 party named as a party and with the comparable discovery from  
11 Harvard Pilgrim. Thank you.

12 THE COURT: All right, on behalf of Fallon? Do you  
13 want to respond?

14 MR. PALERMO: However Your Honor would prefer.

15 THE COURT: No, we'll do it one on one so go ahead.

16 MR. PALERMO: Okay.

17 THE COURT: I'll hear you.

18 MR. PALERMO: Your Honor, with respect to the issues  
19 relating to the confidentiality because of that information,  
20 those issues were already raised and addressed by the Court in  
21 the Health Net motion to compel where the Court ruled on  
22 January 27<sup>th</sup> of last year ruling that the confidentiality order  
23 is in place to protected third parties, Your Honor, and we  
24 believe that the orders that are currently in place to provide  
25 sufficient protection to third party payers including Tufts and

1 the other third party plans.

2 With respect to the issue of the burden, Your Honor,  
3 again, we're looking at the complaint. The scope of the  
4 complaint is what it is, Your Honor, and the allegations in the  
5 case go to the issues we've identified in our request, we've  
6 narrowed the request. We're willing to try and work with Tufts  
7 and the other entities to resolve them. And, Your Honor, I  
8 think the experience with respect to the plans that it  
9 previously responded to subpoenas is inconsistent with the  
10 representations about the burden that Tufts identifies. And  
11 with respect to the issue of Blue Cross Blue Shield  
12 Massachusetts, Your Honor, given their size in Massachusetts,  
13 we think that the other subpoenas and information from the  
14 other plans are necessary to get the cross section that we've  
15 identified. The different size plans, their knowledge if we  
16 can demonstrate that plans that are smaller than Blue Cross  
17 Blue Shield have knowledge concerning an understanding of what  
18 AWP is and how they go about reimbursing, obviously I think  
19 that's highly relevant to the case and not-for-profit plans  
20 aren't exempt from the discovery but just because they're not  
21 for profits. Your Honor, I think consistent with the Court's  
22 prior rulings we're entitled to get this discovery and with  
23 respect to the burden issues, Your Honor, I think that we can  
24 work with Tufts to try and resolve those issues consistent with  
25 getting the discovery that's been ordered in prior instances.

1 Thank you, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: All right. Do you want to reply briefly?

3 MS. JOSEPHSON: Could I just very, very briefly. I  
4 just wanted to point out because counsel for Dey referenced the  
5 action that you took on the Health Net issue, this is the  
6 transcript of that hearing is attached to document 1940-1 at  
7 Exhibit E, and in that hearing it was very clear that one of  
8 the factors that the defendants brought forward to convince you  
9 to order discovery from Health Net was that there was no  
10 competitive relationship between Health Net and any of the  
11 parties in the case, also, that the defendants only sought a  
12 representative sample of contracts and that is sample not what  
13 their position is here. Thank you.

14 THE COURT: All right, on behalf of Fallon?

15 MR. SATURLEY: Thank you, Your Honor, William  
16 Saturley on behalf of Fallon Community Health Plan. Fallon has  
17 171,000 members, Your Honor, and they are largely located in  
18 Worcester County in the Commonwealth. My brothers have already  
19 ably dealt with whether or not there's a benefit to the  
20 defendants of pursuing this subpoena issuance, and so I will  
21 certainly pass over that other than I endorse the arguments  
22 that have been made by Attorney Nalven.

23 We've only been involved in this, my law firm, since  
24 December 22<sup>nd</sup> and so there's been an awful lot--

25 THE COURT: You're lucky.

1 MR. SATURLEY: --to try to catch up with, and I'm  
2 hoping you'll let me stay lucky, Your Honor, and grant our  
3 motion because from our standpoint while the subpoena that was  
4 served on Fallon maybe a narrowed subpoena it's quite  
5 significant. It asks for in essence if read largely and on its  
6 face, it essentially asks for every piece of paper that Fallon  
7 has generated or collected in one form or other for the past 14  
8 years.

9 The first document request seeks all schedules  
10 disclosing the amounts reimbursed to physicians for any  
11 services rendered or drugs administered. Your Honor, the way  
12 that Fallon does its business is it signs a separate contract  
13 with every physician or every entity that employs physician or  
14 every provider every year. That's on average 8,000 contracts  
15 per year times 14 years is approximately 110 to 120,000  
16 contracts. In order to determine and to go through the process  
17 of reviewing those contracts to strike them for privilege, to  
18 determine whether they were responsive at all, to worry about  
19 the commercial information that my sister has addressed, would  
20 require just in and of itself the equivalent of 50,000 hours  
21 worth of work. Fallon cannot meet that burden. That's just  
22 the first category of 12.

23 The second category, for instance, please give us all  
24 electronic claims data, in essence is what it says. Fallon  
25 receives tens of thousands of electronic claims every day. In

1 order to comply with a request that would entail a review of  
2 millions of claims. There is no electronic computer search  
3 mechanism that would allow us to respond to the subpoena and go  
4 through the process we would need to in order to determine if  
5 those records were compliant, determine if there was  
6 information in there that we should not produce. So, again,  
7 we're talking a manual review process. Fallon has already told  
8 you in the context of the companies that are involved here is  
9 very small. It has a total of 525 employees, 200 of them in  
10 the administrative capacity. They're all very busy. The  
11 affidavit of Daniel Conquer, which is document number 2783,  
12 sets forth the other things that Fallon is doing today. Fallon  
13 is trying to convert all of its records and answer multiple  
14 inquiries just with regards to the Medicare Part D change that  
15 was made with regards to the health reinsurance business as of  
16 January 1. Fallon is also preparing for a Medicaid site visit  
17 upcoming. Fallon is undergoing a Department of Insurance  
18 investigation right now, an annual site visit. Fallon is  
19 preparing for its two week audit in order to file its 501(c)(3)  
20 information, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. Fallon's staff  
21 are working up to 80 hours a week now to comply with their  
22 existing obligations. To undertake any response to the  
23 subpoena as stands or even as what might, from your situation  
24 might appear to be a reasonable accommodation, why not do it  
25 for instance for the past three years all the records on site



1 as opposed to iron mountain still remains an overwhelming and  
2 unreasonable burden to Fallon.

3 I will say that we have communicated with counsel for  
4 Dey. They have been polite. They have been responsive. We  
5 haven't had any problem talking with each other, but we are up  
6 against the unassailable fact to respond to the subpoena either  
7 as stated or as modified in a way that would be acceptable to  
8 Dey is an incredible, unreasonable burden to a very small  
9 company. And we ask under those circumstances that you just  
10 say, that's not necessary, the subpoena on Fallon is squashed.  
11 Thank you.

12 MR. PALERMO: Your Honor--

13 THE COURT: Clearly the theme all the way across the  
14 board with all three entities is burden here.

15 MR. PALERMO: Well, Your Honor, in the last argument  
16 counsel's argument seemed to be that any response would be too  
17 burdensome because they're too busy with all the other things  
18 that they have to do. What we've tried to do with our narrowed  
19 request, Your Honor, is narrow them to exactly the same  
20 discovery that Your Honor has permitted on numerous prior  
21 occasions. The Court has previously ordered discovery from  
22 Blue Cross Blue Shield and Mutual of Omaha even though they're  
23 small plans. Small plans are particularly relevant here with  
24 respect their knowledge of reimbursement and their methodology,  
25 and they're highly relevant to the allegations that are at the

1 heart of this case, Your Honor. And we have really tried to  
2 narrow those requests and tried to be consistent with what's  
3 been permitted over and over and over again. Thank you, Your  
4 Honor.

5 THE COURT: All right. I'll take the morning recess  
6 at this time. All right, 10 minutes.

7 (RECESS)

8 THE COURT: All right, having given the matter some  
9 further thought and having heard extensive argument in  
10 reference to docket entries 1907, 1909, 1910, 1914, 2005 and  
11 2091, I will grant the plaintiffs' motion for protective orders  
12 in those individual motions, and I will grant the motions to  
13 quash as well. Having reevaluated the situation and having  
14 heard really very extensive argument on burdensomeness today, I  
15 believe that the presence of Blue Cross Blue Shield in the  
16 litigation at this time does change things, and I feel that the  
17 oppressiveness of the burden as has been outlined by counsel  
18 for the three health plans is quite dramatic. I'm also  
19 concerned about the issues of confidentiality. I think there  
20 are serious confidentiality issues here in a competitive  
21 situation, and for that reason I'm very much concerned about  
22 the rights of the non-parties and, therefore, grant the  
23 motions.

24 All right, I believe we have one remaining motion and  
25 that is 1820, which is plaintiffs' motion to compel production

1 of Amgen.

2 MR. NALVEN: Your Honor, this will be a brief motion.  
3 I didn't know if you wanted to excuse counsel who had already  
4 been heard?

5 THE COURT: Yes. If counsel who have been heard  
6 don't want to stay for the remainder, you're welcome to leave  
7 at this time.

8 MR. YOUNG: Your Honor, I didn't have an opportunity  
9 to introduce myself earlier. My name is Joseph Young. I'm  
10 with the law firm of Hogan & Hartson in Baltimore. I represent  
11 Amgen Inc.

12 THE COURT: And the spelling of your last name?

13 MR. YOUNG: Young, Y-O-U-N-G--

14 THE COURT: Oh.

15 MR. YOUNG: --Your Honor.

16 MR. COMMISSO: Good morning, Your Honor, John  
17 Commisso of Kelly Libby & Hoopes. That's Commisso, C-O-M-M-I-  
18 S-S-O.

19 THE COURT: We know that, Mr. Commisso, having had  
20 you in court yesterday.

21 MR. NALVEN: Your Honor, I know that it's been a long  
22 morning so I'll be brief on this motion.

23 THE COURT: Well not as long as many others.

24 MR. NALVEN: Your Honor, Amgen is one of the Track 2  
25 defendants in this case and Amgen manufactures a drug by the

1 name of Aranesp among others which is a competitor of the drug  
2 Procrit which is a drug manufactured by Johnson and Johnson.  
3 These drugs are chemically identical. And I raised that with  
4 Your Honor at the outset just to assure you that as Your Honor  
5 knows the drugs that are at issue in the cases has changed--

6 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

7 MR. NALVEN: --have changed over the course of the  
8 case but the heartland of the case has always been physician  
9 administered drugs where there's either therapeutic or chemical  
10 identity and so Amgen's manufacture of Aranesp makes Amgen a  
11 central focus of the AWP MDL. I think the papers candidly  
12 submitted by both parties fairly fully explore the issues for  
13 Your Honor but I'll summarize briefly. The plaintiffs served  
14 several document requests on Amgen beginning in late 2003 and  
15 into early 2004, including what might be referred to as a  
16 summary or omnibus request in March of 2004. There was no  
17 production by Amgen at that time. The papers I think by both  
18 sides sort of identify a series of communications that Your  
19 Honor probably doesn't want to get bogged down in about who  
20 acted first and who acted next, but I think what's significant  
21 to understand is that by May of 2005 plaintiffs were closely  
22 focused on obtaining discovery from Amgen and in fact on May  
23 26th of 2005 my partner Steve Berman provided counsel for Amgen  
24 with a very detailed memo, it was actually an internal memo but  
25 it was provided without waiver, and I think for that reason

1 counsel did not attach it to his papers. But it was a very  
2 detailed memo identifying the categories of documents that  
3 would satisfy plaintiffs in connection with the earlier  
4 document request.

5           At the time that we filed this motion, which was  
6 October of 2005, plaintiffs still had not received any  
7 production from Amgen of a documentary nature. Plaintiffs had  
8 only received some transactional data. Now remember that at  
9 the time that we filed that motion, the discovery cutoff for  
10 Track 2 which is still in place, although there's a motion  
11 pending concerning this matter, was December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and even as  
12 recently, I think shortly after the motion was filed Amgen did  
13 begin to produce some documents. As of a couple of days ago  
14 I'm told by one of my colleagues that Amgen has produced about  
15 43,000 pages of documents and has represented that it believes  
16 its production to be complete. We believe the production to be  
17 far, far, far from complete. As Your Honor knows the primary  
18 focus in terms of company of my work in this proceeding has  
19 been Glaxosmithkline and I can tell you that Glaxosmithkline,  
20 for example, produced in excess of 3,000,000 pages of  
21 documents.

22           THE COURT: Yes, but how can you say it until you've  
23 really taken a look?

24           MR. NALVEN: Well, we are taking a look, Your Honor,  
25 but at this point we can really identify for you one very

1 specific and very troubling issue in this case or actually I  
2 would take two specific and troubling issues. The first is  
3 that as a result of the very, very late production and what we  
4 believe to be, we know to be a partial production, we don't  
5 know how partial, at this point plaintiffs have been very  
6 seriously prejudiced. We have discovery - the discovery period  
7 already ended and we're only beginning to receive documents  
8 now. Except for some initial 30(b)(6) depositions we were  
9 unable to take depositions that were meaningful because we  
10 didn't have documents. Amgen, whatever its excuses for not  
11 producing documents prior to let's say May of 2005, certainly  
12 by May there was no question that it was very clear what it is  
13 we were looking for, and sat on our requests for an additional  
14 period of time and in fact did not begin producing until we  
15 filed. In our motion we are asking for sanctions which will  
16 allow us not only to obtain documents more quickly but also  
17 will send the message to Amgen and defendants that the Court is  
18 not going to tolerate violations of CMO's and discovery  
19 obligations.

20           The second issue that is of very special concern,  
21 Your Honor, is the time period that Amgen claims it has to  
22 produce documents with respect to. Amgen has taken the  
23 position in this case that it need only produce documents for  
24 the period 1997 to 2001 or sort of creeping into 2002. Sort of  
25 at the last exchange between one of my colleagues and Amgen's

1 counsel, Amgen's counsel said that it would return to its  
2 client to see whether that position could be modified, but that  
3 position is inconsistent with the complaint in this case which  
4 seeks data and documents since 1991. The conduct of other  
5 defendants in the case, including Glaxosmithkline which for  
6 example Your Honor produced documents from 1991, and it's  
7 inconsistent most importantly with Judge Saris' recent class  
8 certification order which certifies a class for the period 1991  
9 to 2005. Plaintiffs need this critical information from this  
10 critical defendant promptly, a full production promptly for the  
11 entire class period. So in addition to, among the sanctions  
12 that we seek, Your Honor, among the relief that we seek in  
13 terms of prompt production is a full and complete production  
14 that at this point is now within the next 60 days in order to  
15 review the documents and prepare for further testimonial  
16 discovery. Thank you, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: All right, I'll hear you, Mr. Young.

18 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Your Honor. First, I think  
19 the Court needs to focus on what it has before it. The motion  
20 that was filed in October was a motion for sanctions based on  
21 essentially what plaintiffs claim was Amgen's complete refusal  
22 to conduct discovery. And the documents that were attached to  
23 our briefs, let me make clear that there was no waiver, objects  
24 were timely filed, they were all pursuant to express  
25 understandings and agreements with plaintiffs' counsel, not Mr.

1 Nalven but his other lawyers in his office, and that there is  
2 in fact a documented record of that exchange.

3 We, also I think, and this is important in thinking  
4 through other sanctions are at all appropriate in this context,  
5 Amgen did early on push for a meet and confer as of last  
6 December and it did take five months for a sit down and a final  
7 meeting with Mr. Nalven's partner to get the list that he  
8 described, the detailed list that narrowed the production, in  
9 fact narrowed the production in order to avoid the 3,000,000  
10 page production that Mr. Nalven commented about from another  
11 defendant in the Track 1 case. Our purpose was to focus it,  
12 narrow it, make it tight so that it's not a strict, you know, a  
13 broad data dump. The data was provided within a month of that  
14 time pursuant to a request to modify the original data request  
15 that had been made. That took time with the experts, and we  
16 began reviewing over the summer.

17 The production was made beginning of October and it  
18 was made in fact the day after plaintiffs had filed their  
19 motion to compel. Had they called and said we're about to file  
20 a motion to compel, we would have said we're filing our  
21 documents Monday. But the document production began in  
22 October, which was consistent with our representations to Judge  
23 Saris in connection with the scheduling issue that was filed in  
24 late September and early October on Track 2 discovery, and it  
25 continued on a rolling production through December and



1 completed in January. We are substantially completed the  
2 production of the limited discovery requests that were the  
3 result of a meet and confer with Mr. Berman in May.

4           So, first, with respect to the motion to compel on  
5 for sanctions with respect to discovery, Amgen believes that it  
6 did work in good faith to resolve issues, that the parties  
7 understood that and the production proceeded accordingly. And  
8 in fact, had we gotten in December of 2004 where we were in May  
9 of 2005, it would have all been over by July and none of us  
10 would be here this morning.

11           With respect to the two troubling issues that  
12 Mr. Nalven refers to, the timing of production and the effect  
13 on discovery scheduling, that is precisely the issue before  
14 Judge Saris on two competing CMO's that were submitted in  
15 December of 2005. The plaintiffs use the same kinds of  
16 arguments with respect to defendants' productions, not just  
17 Amgen's, but a broad number of defendants, and requesting an  
18 extension of discovery till June. The defendants in the Track  
19 2 have requested or suggested an extension to allow additional  
20 discovery through March. I think an important point there is  
21 that both parties understood and in fact Judge Saris in what  
22 has been called her holiday order understood that December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
23 wasn't likely to be the firm cutoff, that the parties, I think  
24 she said, shouldn't kill themselves over the holidays, and she  
25 was going to deal with scheduling after, my guess is after she

1 come back to the Court in two weeks or three weeks or whenever  
2 we need to, we can do it at that time, but it's simply not ripe  
3 at this time.

4 THE COURT: Yeah, I think based on what's happened  
5 this motion as it's framed presently is now moot, and if you  
6 need to renew it you may. All right.

7 MR. YOUNG: I appreciate that, Your Honor. Thank  
8 you.

9 THE COURT: I think that resolves everything that's  
10 on the table for today. Any counsel want to raise anything  
11 else?

12 (Pause)

13 THE COURT: All right. Then we stand in recess.

14 MR. NALVEN: Thank you, Your Honor.

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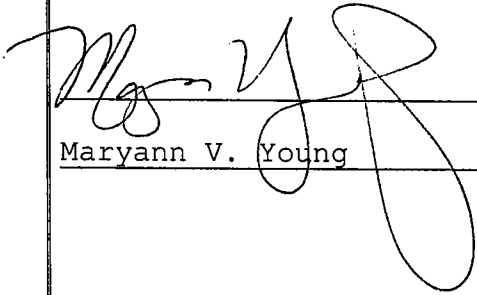
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CERTIFICATION

I, Maryann V. Young, court approved transcriber, certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the official digital sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.



Maryann V. Young

February 24, 2006